



# Paw Prints

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## Letter from the PTA President *Derby Pattengill*

I have to once again break a promise I made to myself when this school year began. I didn't want this section of Paw Prints to be filled with endless thank yous and self congratulations. We do what we do out of love, not ego. October, however, is a remarkable month. So I would like to thank and recognize some individuals and their committees.

Chris Morache led the fall fundraiser this year which raised over \$10,000 for PTA programs. Coach Tucker was kind enough to speak on family meetings and raising independent children at our PTA meeting. Sarah Calbreath and the Reflections committee are organizing an amazing show on November 4. Don't miss it at 6:30 in the auditorium. Robin D'Amore, our membership chair, has registered over 200 PTA members. Colby Filson has compiled the all-school directory in what seems like record time. It is currently at the printer thanks to the BW Foundation and will be in our hands soon. Kristin McGraw and Debbie Zapelli have taken on the Everyone a Reader program and already have volunteer readers in most of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms.

Speaking of reading, let me welcome our new librarian, Shelly Griswold. A PTA vet, Shelly has served on almost all of the Board positions in her years at BW. With her experience, we wasted no time in roping her in to the at home reading program. Together with Trina Maas and Terri Knight, they have revamped the program and are set to unveil the "Mission to Mars" reading program in November.

October also means Halloween Happening. Kathy Monroe and her army of helpers continue to raise the bar on this spirit-building event. Great games, decorations, costumes, a bake sale, haunted house and generous staff support make this a great BW community event. That guy who said that a man has got to know his limitations does not know the BW PTA. Thank you all for a big month at BW.

Many of the programs the PTA runs for fundraising, advocacy, class enrichment, and spirit building take a considerable amount of time and work. What if you do not have lots of extra time? How can you help? Let me introduce Amy Heil. She is our "Free Money Queen". She is the force behind our monthly fundraising dinners. Go out on a specified night and BW gets 10-20% of your bill. Look out in December for the double feature evening at Barnes and Noble and Rubio's in Grossmont. Evenings too busy? Clip some box tops or turn in spent printer cartridges. She reports that we earn over \$1000 a year with this program. Still too much work? Then Escript is for you. Sign up with Escript online and participating stores like Vons or Macy's will automatically give back a portion of your spending to BW. Contact Amy if you have any questions. She is [Amyheil@yahoo.com](mailto:Amyheil@yahoo.com).

Questions, comments, critiques? Feel free to email or call me regarding PTA business. Of course let me know if you caught the Clint Eastwood line for this month. A bonus to you for the name of the movie.

Derby Pattengill (call 284-9471 or write Cpattengill@cox.net)

## Message from the Foundation President *Drew Smith*

The drinking fountain is in! Enjoy a drink at the upper playground. A lot of sweat into this project. Having the kids being able to get a drink on the upper playground is long overdue. The kids love it. This would not have been possible without the help of you, the parents. I would like to thank Eric Dyreson, Kenny Schindler, Billl Cerney, David Hayes, Mike Stein, Ben Soule, Ron Zapelli, Jeff Walsingham, Louie Bertsche, Larry Chapman, Travis Joseph, Don Thomas, Scott Fox, and Richard Fakadej. Thank you so much for your time and hard work.

We now have BW hats for sale. If you want to purchase a fitted or non-fitted hat, please look for the order form which is being sent home in your child's red folder. You can also still purchase BW t-shirts. The opportunity drawing is currently at \$265.00. Don't forget to purchase your tickets at all BW events! Proceeds help fund projects at our school.

## Letter from the Principal

November 2009



### Calendar Highlights

Nov. 11—Veteran's  
Day, no school

Nov. 12—Picture  
Make-up day

Nov. 16-20 Parent  
Teacher conferences

Nov. 23-27—  
Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 23—PawPrints  
deadline

Dec. 4—Night at the  
Bench: *UP*

Dec. 7—Rubio's and  
Barnes & Noble Dine  
Out

Dear Families,

Thank you to the PTA for a spectacular Halloween Happening. I would like to give kudos to the committee who put this event together. It was definitely bigger and better than ever before. The decorations and atmosphere was amazing, most of all the superb entrance!

I am happy to announce that Benchley-Weinberger has a wonderful new Library Assistant. Her name is Shelly Griswold and she has had three children attend our school. She can now claim being a part of the B-W family for fifteen years! I would also like to welcome our new Art Teacher, Susie Rothman, who came recommended from the Visual and Performing Arts Department (VAPA). Each classroom will receive six art lessons throughout the school year.

The budget for the SDUSD is once again in the news. The budget comes up earlier and earlier every school year. The district must come up with an additional one hundred million dollars in cuts for next year. There is a fifty percent chance that there will not be a magnet program or transportation for next year. If you would like to make your voices heard, there are upcoming Community Budget Meetings scheduled as follows:

10/29	7:00 pm	– Madison High School
11/5	7:00 pm	– Mission Bay High School
11/12	7:00 pm	– Serra High School
11/19	7:00 pm	– Lincoln High School
12/3	7:00 pm	– San Diego High School

SDUSD has an interim Superintendant, Bill Kowba, who has been in charge of facilities and was the previous interim Superintendant before Dr. Terry Grier came to San Diego. The Deputy Superintendant is Granita Latham who followed Dr. Grier from North Carolina.

Congratulations to our teachers, parents, students and staff that support our academic achievement. Our API school growth went from 903 to 927. Benchley-Weinberger is now the 8<sup>th</sup> highest ranked elementary school in SDUSD.

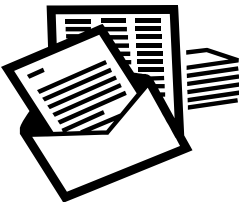
We have so many wonderful things happening at our school, we will continue to carry on despite all the budget discussions. Remember we are trying to make every Friday "Spirit Day". Please remind your students to wear their B-W t-shirts or sweats every Friday.

Upcoming events for the month of November include:

November 11 <sup>th</sup>	– Veterans' Day Holiday	–no student attendance
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	– Picture Make-Up Day	
November 16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	– Parent/Teacher Conferences	–dismissal at 11:45 am (entire week)
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	– Thanksgiving Break	–no student attendance

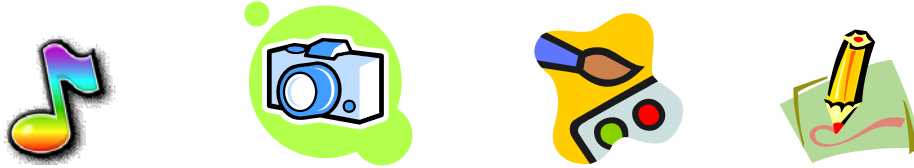
Sincerely,  
Marian K. Jacobs

### Fire Safety in Your Home *Barb Rahier*



Last month, due to a series of mishaps with some electrical wiring in our house remodel, a fire started in our attic. It had been burning for 4 hours without our knowledge because the turbines in the roof were so efficient releasing the smoke, not one of our detectors went off. Fortunately, at the time the fire came through the ceiling, it also shorted the doorbell wire, which rang and woke us up. We got out safely, including our pets!

The support, concern and willingness to help from friends and neighbors is truly appreciated, but I have only one request... PLEASE install smoke detectors in your attic and garage, it's something we may not all think of, but is highly recommended by the Fire Inspector. My wish is for no other family to endure such a tragedy. Install them today!



## Come to the Reflections Art Show Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>!

Thanks to all the students who submitted their artwork for the Reflections Art Show. Now the kids are starring in their very own art show, and everyone is invited! Save the date:

### Reflections Art Show & Awards Ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Benchley-Weinberger Auditorium

Students and their families are highly encouraged to come to the Reflections Art Show & Awards Ceremony. Each student who participates will be recognized and all the artwork will be on display. It will be a special night full of music, art, poetry, refreshments, and fun!

*Sarah Calbreath, Heidi Dromgoole and Kristin McGraw, co-chairs*

## The 2009 Halloween Happening Was a Howling Success



The 2009 Halloween Happening Carnival took place on Saturday, October 24th. thanks to the hard work, dedication, and generosity of our Benchley community. All the mummies, daddy's, ghosts and goblins that came enjoyed loads of games, prizes, food, goodies, and the "Spookly Benchley Weinberger" haunted house put on by Chris Morache and the rest of the 5th Grade students and parents. The decorations created by the students were bootiful! Special thanks to Mrs. Hasselbar, Mrs. Filner, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Aufesser, Jody Steinbauer, and Aaron from the YMCA for getting "flushed" and to Mrs. Hasselbar, Mrs. Aufesser, Mrs. Schroeder, Miss Corina, Mrs. Kilgore, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Sheeler, Miss Percival, and Mrs. Davis for selling tickets. Mrs. Knight came back and was "Mrs. Pockets"! Many a student picked her pockets for prizes, candy or the very popular star ticket. Ms.Adams decorated our students with glittery tattoos. Mrs. Mollie Rivera took our pictures and made us say "cheese" in a spooky graveyard with the proceeds going to our YMCA.

We had amazing entries in our cake decorating and pumpkin carving contests. Some of the winners were: Melissa and Lizzy Weber, Jessica Holland, Thai Simmons, Stephanie Smith, Canin and Chloe Hessom Jameson Jehl, Pariss Rodriguez, Michael Jimenez, Aysia Serna, Imani Jackson, Elijah Sneed, Celestia Ghemanth, Abby Williams, Christina McCarthy, Zach Earner, Tyler Dougherty, and Phoebe and Lana Batson. Also Isabel's grandma, Andrea Piranio, did not enter the contest but made the amazing spider cake, neat pumpkin cake, as well as some adorable cupcakes and sugar cookies. We sold the sugar cookies at the food booth and they were a big hit .

This carnival is made possible because of the dedication of the Halloween Happening committee members, parent volunteers, staff, and students, and many local businesses. A huge "howl" out goes to the students of: Helix, Grossmont, and Patrick Henry High School, Grossmont Jr. College and San Diego City High School, Girl Scout Troops led by Joanna Dullum, Renee Leckner and Penny VanBaale, and Boy Scouts from Troop 959 for earning community service hours while running the games for our kids. This volunteering allowed our parents to be able to spend more time with their children.

The committee would like to say "THANK YOU" in a big way to the following local businesses: **ALBERTSON'S, COSTCO, JAMBA JUICE, FRITO LAY, KEIL'S, TRADER JOE'S, VONS, AND WINDMILL FARMS.** This carnival wouldn't have been the same without you! Your generous donations allowed us to keep our costs (and not our fun) down.

**THANK YOUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU and we hope to see you next year!**

### Dine Out Day

One of the easiest and tastiest ways to help raise funds for PTA programs is to participate in designated 'Dine Out Days'. On December 7, join us at Barnes & Noble to hear some stories read by our own Mrs. Knight and some other generous folk that have volunteered their time to read at this event. Get some of your holiday shopping done and help the school at the same time! Don't forget to take a trip to Rubio's for dinner that same evening.

Fliers with more detailed information will be distributed in your child's communication folder .

Hope to see you there!

### NIGHT AT THE BENCH, FEATURING: DISNEY'S NEW MOVIE "UP"

Come Join us for a wonderful evening as we watch Russell, Carl, and Doug go "UP", up, and away on a great adventure.

We are excited to have movie night on Friday, Dec. 4th at 6:30 in the auditorium. Bring your pillow, blanket, and friends for Disney's latest release (rated PG). This fundraiser is one you don't want to miss. Fifth grade will be hosting the concession stand.

### Budget Workshops for 2010-2011 School Year Announced

The San Diego Unified School District has announced a series of budget workshops to discuss the upcoming school year. Interim Superintendent Bill Kowba has said that we must prepare for upcoming cuts of \$100 million. This is on top of the already \$250 million in cuts we have had over the past 24 months. Will this effect Benchley Weinberger? Yes it will. Here is a few of the proposed cuts:

- Librarians and library techs
- Health techs
- Balboa Park, Old Town and Palomar Mountain programs
- Institute half day Kindergarten
- Raise grade 1-3 class sizes to 29.7
- Magnet programs and transportation

Would you like to have a say in these decisions? Please visit the budget crisis website on the district website (Sandi.net), plan to attend a budget workshop or an upcoming SDUSD board meeting, or contact your PTA president and voice your opinion. The next two board meetings are November 10 and December 8. The meetings are at 5:00pm at the Eugene Brucker Center, 4100 Normal St. 92103.

SDUSD Budget Meetings are at 7:00 pm:

- November 5 Mission Bay High School
- November 12 Serra High School
- November 19 Lincoln High School
- December 3 San Diego High School

### REMINDER— Check Lost and Found!

Please be sure to look over the lost and found cart before the Winter Break for any items your child may have lost over the past few months. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

To aid in identification, please be sure that items of clothing are marked with a name and room number . This makes it easier to return found items to classrooms to be claimed by the owner.

### Paw Prints is edited by Jeannette Stumpfel and the Benchley-Weinberger PTA.

Next issue's deadline is Nov. 23 for publication in the December issue. Articles may be sent to: BWPawPrints1@Yahoo.com

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 : **Green Tip: When storing leftovers in the refrigerator, use a glass/pottery bowl or pie pan and** :  
 : **cover with a dinner plate. It won't leach chemicals into your food and will save on the pur-** :  
 : **chase of plastic cling films.** :  
 : .....